

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 06339 152131Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 XMB-02 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05
ACDA-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
/080 W

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O 152110Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7006
INFO CNO IMMEDIATE
SECDEF IMMEDIATE
JCS IMMEDIATE
USCOMSOLANT IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6339

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PINT, SHUM, PEPR, AR, US
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE NAVY MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN
1978 UNITAS EXERCISES

1. NAVY DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL LUCHETTA INFORMALLY
TOLD EMBOFF TODAY (8/15) THAT ARGENTINE NAVY WOULD NOT
PARTICIPATE IN 1978 UNITAS EXERCISES. LUCHETTA SAID THAT
THE OFFICIAL NOTE WHICH WOULD BE SENT TO EMBASSY WITHIN
NEXT FEW DAYS WOULD CITE SHORTAGE OF SPARE PARTS AS THE
REASON FOR ARGENTINA NONPARTICIPATION.

2. LUCHETTA STATED THAT THE NAVY WAS UNDER GREAT
PRESSURE WITHIN THE GOA TO CANCEL ITS PARTICIPATION
IN UNITAS. THE CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF THE EXIM BANK
REFUSAL, THE LAMBRUSCHINI BOMBING, THE DERIAN STATEMENT,
THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH'S IMPLEMENTATION IN EFFECT
OF THE HUMPHREY/KENNEDY BILL A YEAR BEFORE ITS TRIGGER
DATE, THE ALLEGED FAILURE OF THE US TO LIVE UP TO ITS
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OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE RIO PACT AND THE UPCOMING
LEGISLATIVE ARMS CUT-OFF DATE HAD MADE ARGENTINE NAVY'S
PARTICIPATION IMPOSSIBLE, LUCHETTA SAID.

3. INFORMATION RE CANCELLATION IS NOT FORMAL AND EMBASSY
SEEKING CONFIRMATION. EMBOFF WILL BE SEEING NAVY
COMMANDER, ADMIRAL MASSERA, EVENING AUGUST 16 AT WHICH

TIME MASSERA PROMISED DEFINITIVE ANSWER. PENDING
NOTIFICATION BY MASSERA WE BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE NO
US COMMENT ON OR REACTION TO LUCHETTA STATEMENT.
CASTRO

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NNN

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